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Ser. No. 09/715,275

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 19,24, 26-49, 52-65 and 67-119 are currently pending in this application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the further attention given to this application.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-14, 21-24, 26-29, 41-44, 62-65 and 67-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graves (US 6,198,558). Claims 10, 19, 30, 32-39, 45, 47-49, 53-60 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graves in view of Keenan et al. (US 6,215,789). Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 73-119 are allowed and that claims 11, 20, 31, 40, 46, 52, 61 and 72 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-24, 26-49, 52-65, and 67-72. Thus only allowed claims 73-119 are remaining in the application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter the amendments herein, and issue a notice of allowance for allowed claims 73-119.

Applicants are hereby submitting the fee required for a three month extension of time by Deposit Account No. 501990. It is believed that no other fee is due, however, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required to Deposit Account No. 501990.

A notice of appeal is being concurrently filed herewith to allow the Examiner adequate time to review this amendment.

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Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant, collect, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/12/04

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Docket No.: APTI 1013638

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